

50 years of imaging excellence

The Ophthalmic Photographers' Society will celebrate this milestone throughout 2019.

By Timothy J. Bennett, CRA, OCT-C, FOPS

The Ophthalmic Photographers' Society is celebrating 50 years. The coordinated group of imagers began in 1969, when a few professionals held their first formal gathering at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago to establish an organization to share technical information, collaborate on new techniques, and set standards of practice.

Founding members included: Lee Allen, Earl Choromokos, Ogden Frazier, Johnny Justice Jr., Roger Lancaster, Yvonne Magli, Mary Manella, Terrance Tomer, Anna Wiley, and Don Wong.

From the very beginning, the Society fostered an environment of collaboration, innovation and education by acting as a central forum for the exchange of information via programs, such as national and regional education and webinars, and publications, such as the peer-reviewed *Journal of Ophthalmic Photography*.

All of these programs and member benefits are accomplished through efforts of dedicated volunteers from the OPS ranks, along with generous philanthropic support from sustaining members.

"From its inception, the OPS has been built on volunteerism," says Michael P. Kelly, OPS president. "Our altruistic

founders set in motion an example that exists to this day and benefits all who seek the knowledge and skills needed to perform exceptional ocular imaging. Through each new technological advancement over the years, OPS members have lead the way in pushing the limits of new imaging device capability and then sharing their expertise, volunteering their time and energy in this passion, which is ophthalmic photography."

The OPS also offers two certifications in ophthalmic photography: the Certified Retinal Angiographer and the Optical Coherence Tomography-Certified. These successes are a testament to the vision of the founders of the OPS 50 years ago along with the commitment of time, talent, and energy of our members throughout the years.

"I have been so blessed by the friendships and the camaraderie of so many supremely talented people in this discipline, assisting the early days of the designs for certification, and guiding so many skilled photographers into the wonders of ophthalmology," says charter member Richard Alan Lewis, M.D., M.S.

OPS will be celebrating throughout 2019. Details and other OPS information may be found at opsweb.org, Facebook page, or by contacting Barbara McCalley, executive director, at ops@opsweb.org.

IMAGING TIMELINE

1960s The advent of fluorescein angiography revolutionized the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of retinal diseases.

1970s Improvements in techniques and instrumentation for angiography as well as the adoption of the Seven Standard Field protocol for the Diabetic Retinopathy Study (DRS) and other clinical trials.

1980s Several companies developed digital angiography systems, and the scanning laser ophthalmoscope (SLO) was introduced.

1990s Indocyanine green (ICG) video angiography and the early days of optical coherence tomography (OCT).

2000s At the turn of the century, time-domain OCT (TD-OCT) exploded on the clinical scene and within a few short years was surpassed by spectral domain OCT (SD-OCT). We have seen advances in ultra wide-field imaging, multimodal imaging, and OCT-angiography (OCT-A). There have been similar advancements in anterior segment imaging over that time span as well.

Mr. Bennett is an ophthalmic photographer in the Penn State Eye Center. He has served as president of the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society.



Founding OPS member Johnny Justice Jr. (bottom left) demonstrating fundus photography at an OPS workshop in 1978.



OPS Scientific Exhibit of award winning photographs on display at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting in the 1980s.

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